Eastern region and between the Brahmaputra valley and the Chindwin river of Burma.

(b) and (c) The questions do not arise.

Request for setting up of separate agency for manganese nodules

2205. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any request from the Director of Regional Laboratory, Bhubaneswar for setting up a separate agency for mining polymetallic manganese nodules in the Indian Ocean, as reported in the Times of India of 19th July, 1986;

(b) if so, what has been the response of Government thereto; and

(c) whether similar proposals for ocean mining have been received from Gujarat and or any other States also; if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELETCRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir. No proposal has been received for ocean mining from any State.

Establishment of a township for scientists and research scholars

2206. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to establish a township, with all modern amenities and infrastructure like those in technologically advanced countries, to facilitate Indian scientists and research scholars working at home and abroad if so, what are the details thereof, including selection of location for such township;

(b) whether Gujarat or any other State Government has offered land and other facilities for establishment of such a township if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government have also received any such proposal from the private sector to establish such a facility from the funds allotted by them for research and development; if so, what has been the response of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) No, Sir. There is no proposal under Government's consideration for the establishment of such a township. However, Department of Electronics have approved setting up of there technology parks by NRIs for hundred percent export of software. These are:—

(1) Indo American Capital and Technology Cooperation (ICAT) USA at Pune, Maharashtra.

(2) Indus Technology Incorporated USA at Kotagiri, Tamil Nadu, and

(3) Indus Technology incorporated USA at Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh.

(b) and (c) Government have not received any such proposal.

Capabilities of Indian Satellites to identify undersoil water currents

2207. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the satellites launched by India are capable of carrying out detailed geological surveys and to precisely identify the locations of undersoil water currents; if so, whe-

ther this information is made available to State Governments to enable them to effectively attend o the scheme of making potable water available to every single village;

(b) if not, whether Government are considering to hire powerful satellites from advanced countries to get data for undersoil water resources; if so, what are the details thereof and if not, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government have received requests from Gujarat and/or any other State Governments for making such data available, in view of the acute scarcity of potable water in many areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DDEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) and (b) Remote Sensing Satellites are capable of providing multispectral, multitemporal data for large areas. The Multispectral data offers information on various natural resources. So far, India has not launched any operational satellite for resources survey, However experimental Indian Satellites Bhaskara-I & II for remote sensing were launched in June, 1979 and November, 1981 respectively. The "Bhaskara" payloads provided coarse resolution images. These images were studied in collaboration with various users. It has been found that these data products are useful to the extent of demarcating different geological units at broad levels.

The first near-operational Indian Remote Sensing Satellite, IRS-IA, is planned for launch during 1987. DOS/ ISRO in collaboration with State Government and Central Government User Departments has undertaken 16 application projects involving nearly 300 scientists. This is a preparatory exercise for keeping the Indian users in readiness for the optimum use of the data from the forthcoming Indian Remote Sensing Satellite

Even while Government of India is planning to launch the IRS, Indian Scientists have acquired enough skills for using satellite data for various resources studies taking advantage of the data currently available from satellites launched by other countries

Since 1980, India is receiving satellite data from Landsat series (USA). The Indian Landsat Earth Station (ILES) located at Hyderabad is functioning under the National Remote Sensing Agency of Department of Space. Presently, we are receiving data from Lands at 4&5. Several studies related to Ground Water Resources are carried out by the Department of Space in close cooperation with the user agency. The satellite imagery has been used for delineating various geologic/geomorphic units which are indicative of occurrence of ground water. Ground water potential maps have been prepared for the major parts of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu Maharashtra, Karnataka, Gujarat and Rajasthan. These maps are useful for narrowing down the target area for detailed ground water exploration work/effort. Recently Government of India has signed an agreement with the French Government for receiving images from the SPOT satellite. These images will also be used for various resources studies. Hence, there is no particular need for hiring any additional satellite.

(c) Yes, Sir. Department of Space at the instance of the State Governments, has prepared ground water potential maps of 1:250,000 scale for drought prone districts of Gujarat Maharashtra, Karnataka and Rajasthan using high resolution Landsat Thematic Mapper data using visual interpretation technique. These maps have been prepared in a short span of time in collaboration with State user departments. The Ground Water potential zone maps of the States of Maharashtra, Gujarat and Rajasthan have been handed over to the concerned authorities. The map in respect of Karnataka is being submitted shortly. These maps are in use by the respective State ground water

departments for further detailed exploration work.

In addition, many Central Government and State Government Departments such as Central Ground Water Board and State Ground Water Departments are capable of carrying out such studies using remote sensing techniques.

Transfer of Helicopter units from the Air Force to the Army

2208. SHRI KAPIL VERMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to transfer some helicopter units from the Air Force to the Army; if so, what are the reasons therefor and what functions are likely to be assigned to them; and

(b) whether the Navy is also likely to have a sort of mini air force, if so, whether it is likely to be equipped with aircraft carriers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARUN SINGH): (a) The Air Observation Post helicopters, which Government has decided to integrate with the Army, have always been flown by Army Officers for purely Army tasks. Transfer of these helicopter units to the Army would streamline their operations and permit quicker reaction time during hostilities. The Air Observation Post helicopter units would continue to perform their present functions.

(b) The Navy is already equipped with aircraft carriers from which fixed wing and rotary wing aircraft are deployed. Naval assets also include rotary wing aircraft deployed from ships and land basis and fixed wing maritime reconnaissance aircraft based on the land.

Increase in drug peddling and addiction

2209. SHRI M. VINCENT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) wheher any study is being made by Government to assess the alarming increase in drug peddling and addiction in the country;

(b) what steps have been taken by Government to stop this menace especially among college students; and

(c) whether Government have any proposal under its consideration to amend the Indian Narcotics Act to enforce strict vigilance and awarding of deterrent punishment to drug peddlars and drug users?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STATES (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) A study of the drug abuse situation amongst students in four metropolitan cities and five other towns of the country was commissioned in 1985. The results of this study are still awaited. A variety of educational and preventive measures are being taken by the Ministry of Welfare to counteract the problem of drug abuse among the people including students.

(c) The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotrophic Substances Act, 1985 was recently enacted and enforced w.e.f. 14-11-85. There is no proposal with the Government to amend the said Act at present. The Act provides for deterrent penalties for drug-trafficking/peddling.

Arrest without warrant of an officer of Punjab and Sind Bank of Chandigarh

2210. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that on 7th June, 1986 one Mr. Labh Singh, an officer of Punjab and Sind Bank's Regional Office, Haryana, was